In response thereto, the Union of India filed an affidavit stating that 351 Additional Judges were made Permanent Judges from 1.01.1999 to 31.07.2007 and that the collegium was not consulted by the Chief Justice of India while recommending names of Additional Judges for being made Permanent. Again on 3.03.2008, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the Union of India to bring on record the Memorandum of Procedure for Appointment of Permanent Judges. The Union of India placed the same before the Supreme Court. The matter has now been heard and the judgment is reserved.

Amendments to mineral policy

1470. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether amendments to mineral policy are likely to be delayed;

(b) whether a Working Group set up by the Ministry, has not made its recommendations to Government so far;

(c) if so, by when this Working Group would submit its recommendations; and

(d) what are the main reasons for delay and by when Government is likely to announce the mineral policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Working Group has given its inputs to the Government.

(d) The Government has approved New National Mineral Policy 2008 on 13.3.2008 and the amended policy has been tabled on both Houses of the Parliament.

Allocation of iron-ore reserves

1471. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL and an Indian private company have 35 per cent of country's iron-ore reserves;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is undertaking a survey to ascertain the exact quantum of reserves owned by the above two companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the reassessed reserves would be reallocated to other agencies/companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) India's known reserves are 7.00 billion tonnes of hematite. However there are extensive resources of lower grade hematite which are not proved and as such not included in the inventory. SAIL Leases are estimated to include about 40% of the known reserves of hematite. The National Mineral Policy 2008 states that exploration of Lower grade hematite etc. will be put on fast track, and exploration in this regard will lead to a reassessment of the country's hematite reserves. The question of reallocation of reserves is subject to reassessment.